

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 2872

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TECH, ENRG, IN
SUBJECT: NUCLEAR TOPICS

REFS: A. STATE 044249; B. NEW DELHI 2554

1. WE TOO HAVE PUZZLED AS TO WHY THE PRIME MINISTER HAS WANTED TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF U.S. HEAVY WATER. DOES INDIA NEED IT SO CIRTICALLY AS TO HAVE DECIDED THAT IT MUST ACCEPT THE ATTENDANT SAFEGUARDS FOR THE FACILITIES AFFECTED, AS THE GOI MUST KNOW WOULD BE NECESSARY? DOES THO E UI HAVE IN MIND THAT ACCEPTING SOME LIMITED ADDITIONAL SAFEGUARDING (AS THEY DID AT THE RAPP) MIGHT KEEP THE DOOR OPEN FOR TARAPUR'S RESUPPLY--THAT IS, THAT IT MIGHT PERSUADE US THAT INDIA IS MOVING INCREMENTALLY IN OUR DIRECTION AND S SHOULD CONTINUE TO QUALIFY FOR FUEL FOR TARAPUR? ARS THE INDIANS SIMPLY USING THE PRESIDENT'S OFFER TO TEST THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE U.S. MAY BE PREPARED TO BE ACCOMMODATING DURING THE 18-MONTH GRACE PERIOD OF OUR NEW NON-PROLIFERATION LEGISLATION OR UNTIL SOME DECISIVE POINT IS REACHED THAT WILL RESOLVE, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, OUR DIFFERING APPROACHES TO NON-PROLIFERATION, WHICHEVER TERMINUS COMES EARLIER? WE HAVE NO CLEAR FIX ON WHICH IF ANY OF THESE QUESTIONS CONTAINS THE RIGHT ANSWER. OUR BEST GUESS IS THAT THE SECOND AND THIRD QUESTIONS, PERHAPS IN COMBINATION, COME CLOSER TO THE MARK THAN THE FIRST. (FIRMER ANSWERS MAY BE AVAILABLE
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WHEN WE GET THE LIST OF INDIA'S HEAVY WATER NEEDS PROMISED BY DR. SETHNA, AS REPORTED IN REFTEL B.)

2. WE STRONGLY SUPPORT THE IDEA OF NYE COMING OUT HERE TO CONTINUE THE DIALOGUE AND BELIEVE THE GOI WOULD WELCOME THIS ACTION. HWEVER, CONGEN COURTNEY AND I BOTH BELIEVE THAT IT IS HIGHLY DESIRABLE, PERHAPS EVEN ESSENTIAL, THAT NRC APPROVAL OF

XSNM 1060 BE ACCOMPLISHED BEFORE HE GETS HERE. OTHERWISE, THERE WILL BE A SERIOUS RISK THAT INSTEAD OF BEING ABLE TO FOCUS ON THE RESOLUTION OF OUR DIFFERENCES ON SAFEGUARDS, HIS TALKS WILL BE DEFLECTED TO THE PROBLEM OF A CONTINUING SUPPLY OF ENRICHED URANIUM. THERE IS STRONG OPINION BOTH WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PRESS THAT WILL DEMAND TOP PRIORITY FOR THE TARAPUR ISSUE IF NYE ARRIVES ON THE SCENE WITH THE XSNM 1060 SHIPMENT STILL HUNG UP IN THE NRC. EVEN IF PLAYED VERY LOW KEY, THERE IS NO CHANCE THAT A VISIT BY NYE WOULD PASS UNNOTICED.

3. NEED I ADD THAT DELAY OF THE PENDING TARAPUR RESUPPLY DOES NOT EASE, AND A SIZABLE INTERRUPTION WILL RENDER DISTINCTLY LESS ATTAINABLE, THE ACCOMMODATIONS WE ARE SEEKING FROM THE INDIANS TO COMPLY WITH OUR NEW LEGISLATION?
GOHEEN

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